

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

AID-05 EA-06 OC-05 CCO-00 OPR-02 IO-10 OMB-01 SY-05

INRE-00 NSCE-00 /084 W

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O R 271545Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9526

USIA WASHDC

INFO AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KABUL

AMEMBASSY KTHMANDU

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 8573

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, IN

SUBJ: EMERGENCY MEASURES IN INDIA -- INITIAL EFFECTS
OF PRESS CENSORSHIP

REF: NEW DELHI 8532

1. THE NEWSPAPER SITUATION

IN NEW DELHI YESTERDAY (JUNE 26) ONLY THE HINDUSTAN
TIMES AND STATESMAN APPEARED IN A REGULAR PRESS RUN.
A SINGLE-PAGE VERSION OF THE MOTHERLAND CAME OUT
IN THE COURSE OF THE DAY AS DID A TABLOID-SIZE SPECIAL
SUPPLEMENT OF HINDUSTAN TIMES.

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2. ON FRIDAY MORNING IN DELHI ONLY FOUR MINOR LANGUAGE PAPERS APPEARED (JAN YUG - HINDI-CPI;TEJ - URDU - PRO CONG.; JATHEDAR - PUNJABI - PRO CONG. AND PANTHAK SAMACHAR - PUNJABI - PROCONG.). IN MADRAS ALL THE REGULAR PAPERS CAM OUT BUT THE INDIAN EXPRESS AND ITS SISTER TAMIL DINAMANI LEFT THE USUAL EDITORIAL COLUMNS BLANK EXCEPT FOR THE STATEMENT "DUE TO CERTAIN REASONS THERE IS NO EDITORIAL TODAY". THE MAIL CAPTIONED ITS BLANK EDIT COLUMN "EMERGENCY". ALL BOMBAY PAPERS APPEARED AS DID CALCUTTA'S, THOUGH THERE WAS NO EDITORIAL OR REPORTORIAL CRITICISM EXCEPT FOR ENGLISH AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA. PATRIKA, THOUGH USUALLY SUPPORTIVE OF CONGRESS, CARRIED CAUTIOUSLYICORDED EDITORIAL REFLECTING CONCERN AND RESERVATION OVER THE DECLARATION OF THE STATE OF EMERGENCY. THE STATESMAN, WITH A HINT OF DEFIANCE, RAN A PICTURE OF RECENT J.P. NARAYAN RALLY IN A ONE PAGE SPECIAL EDITION ON JUNE 26 AND REVEALED IRONY IN A FRONT PAGE HEADLINE JUNE 27 "UNION INFORMATION OFFICER SAYS...SITUATION PEACEFUL: MANY ARRESTED." TODAY'S EDITORIAL WAS A CRITICAL DISCUSSION OF SOUTH KOREA'S PARK FOR REPRESSING INTERNAL DISSENT.

3. ALL INDIA RADIO

IN THE DELHI AREA GOI CONTROLLED AIR RADIO AND TELEVISION ARE THE MAJOR SOURCE OF NEWS FOR THE PUBLIC. EVEN THESE, HOWEVER, HAVE CANCELLED SOME OF THEIR REGULARLY SCHEDULED NEWSCASTS, REFLECTING, PERHAPS, THE EFFECTS OF SELF-IMPOSED CAUTION AND THE BOTTLENECK OF CENSORSHIP.

4. FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS WERE SERVED WITH MIMEOGRAPHED COPIES OF THE LAST NINE POINTS OF THE GUIDELINES (SEE REFTEL). ALSO MENTIONED WAS THE INSTRUCTION TO CLEAR ALL OUTGOING COPY WITH GOI'S PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (PIB) BEFORE TRANSMITTAL WHICH MUST BE DONE THROUGH GOI'S OVERSEAS COMMUNICATION SERVICE FACILITY. FOREIGN NEWS AGENCIES TELEX LINKS WERE CUT AT 11:00 A.M. JUNE 27. ALL OUTGOING TELEPHONE LINES WERE DECLARED "OUT-OF-ORDER" ALL DAY.

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5. UPI'S RESIDENT CORRESPONDENT SAID THAT HIS 800 WORD DISPATCH YESTERDAY TOOK TWO HOURS TO BE CLEARED AND WAS CUT TO 300 WORDS. CORRESPONDENTS ARE USING SLUG LINE "AFTER BEING CENSORED BY GOI,".

6. LATEST REPORTS ARE THAT COMMERCIAL WIRE SERVICES TELEX LINKS WERE RESTORED THIS MORNING BUT THEY HAVE BEEN ADMONSIHED THAT THEY ARE ON THEIR HONOR TO WRITE IN

CONFORMITY WITH THE GUIDELINES. SINCE ALL CIRCUITS ARE
UNDOUBTEDLY CLOSELY MONITORED BY GOI, NON-COMPLIANCE
WILL PROBABLY BE PERILOUS.

7. AT NOON TODAY GOI ANNOUNCED THERE IS TO BE A DAILY
BRIEFING AT 5:00 P.M. AT PUB, WHERE THE CHIEF, DR. BAJI,
IS EXPECTED TO PRESIDE.

8. COMMENT: THOUGH THE OFFICIAL EXPLANATION FOR THE
NON-APPEARANCE OF MORNING PAPERS IN THE CAPITAL AS
REPORTED ON PIT IS "IT IS LEARNED THAT POWER SUPPLY
FAILED IN THE BAHADUR SHAH ZAFAR MARG AND CONNAUGHT PLACE
AREA", IT MUST BE ASSUMED THAT THIS WAS A DELIBERATE,
BUT PROBABLY TEMPORARY MEANS OF CONTROLLING THE PRESS
UNTIL GOI WAS SURE ITS PRESS GUIDELINES AND THE
MECHANISM FOR CENSORSHIP WERE IN PLACE AND WORKING.
SAXBE

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